



Improving the lives of children 0 to 5

*First 5 Commission of San Diego*  
1495 Pacific Highway, Ste 202  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Phone (619) 230-6460 Fax (619) 230-6466

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#### INFORMATION ON INNOVATIVE GRANT REQUESTS

In August 2003, the First 5 Commission of San Diego approved the new Innovative Grant Policy. An Innovative Grant encourages the development and application of unique direct services that further the vision of the First 5 Commission of San Diego. Opportunities could include piloting a new method, replicating a best practice approach not offered in San Diego County, or providing services to a new target group of children prenatal to five years old and their families. An innovative project could also be a new component of an existing program, but could not duplicate, expand, or supplant a project/service already offered in San Diego. The amount of funding to any one organization is limited to up to \$75,000 in a fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) and excludes for-profit organizations, funding for research, planning, and capital expenses. The spirit of the Innovative Grant program is to fund unique services; it is not intended to be an alternative funding mechanism.

The Commission funds programs and services for children age zero to five and their families to support the vision that *every child in San Diego County enters school ready to learn*. A multi-year Strategic Plan guides funding decisions. To further guide the Commission, an Implementation and Allocation Plan identifies specific funding areas and dollar amounts committed to each area. Prior to funding an Innovative Grant, the Commission must first determine that a proposal submitted for consideration is consistent with its Strategic Plan, and that funding is available under the Contributions to the Community Fund 2003-04.

Innovative Grant proposals are reviewed by an evaluation team, and then forwarded to the Executive Director of the Commission. The Executive Director has approval authority for requests up to \$5,000; the Commission has final approval for requests from \$5,001 up to \$75,000. Awarded Innovative Grants cannot supplant Federal, State or local general fund monies. In making its funding decisions, the Commission considers the innovative qualities of the proposal, the priority results as stated in the Implementation Plan, and the expected outcomes. All awards are subject to negotiation.

Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the Innovative Grant Policy in order to ensure conformity with eligibility requirements. Submitted proposals must also comply with the Commission's vision, Strategic Plan 2003-06, Approved Priority Results for the 2003-06 Implementation Plan, and evaluation criteria. An applicant may only submit one application for the same project once per fiscal year.

Attached are the following documents to assist you with your proposal:

- *Commission Policy CFC-010: Policy for Innovative Grant Funds*
- *Implementation Plan 2003-06*
- *Strategic Plan 2003-06*
- *Innovative Grant Proposal Application*

Please call the Commission office at 619-230-6475 for any questions you may have. Periodically check our website at [www.first5sandiego.org](http://www.first5sandiego.org) for Commission grant information updates.

Thank you for your interest in serving children and their families in San Diego County.

#### COMMISSION

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